



A congregation of the Presbyterian Church in America

Faithful to the Scriptures  
True to the Reformed Faith  
Obedient to the Great Commission



January 11, 2026  
10:30 am

# Welcome to Christ Community Church

*For God's glory, to make and deploy mature  
and equipped disciples of Jesus Christ.*

Free wifi:  
CCC Guest >  
guest2020

This facility is equipped with a hearing assistance system. Please ask a Sound Technician for a receiver.

Hymns and worship songs are used by permission.  
CCLI # 187771

**§** - denotes congregation Standing

Download the CCC Simpsonville app today!



Whether you are a visitor or a member, it is a joy to worship our Lord Jesus Christ with you this morning. Please consider participating in our Discipleship Hour and Community Groups throughout the week as well.

We believe it is right and good for children of all ages to be with the adult community in worship. Please do not hesitate to keep your child with you. However, we do offer Children's Church for 3-5 yr. olds. Those children participating can be dismissed to the children's wing during the song prior to the sermon.

Because we live in a fallen, broken, sinful world, we can come to Sunday morning worship at times with hearts weighed down with burdens, struggles and concerns. It is not God's will that we shoulder these burdens and concerns alone. Each Sunday immediately following the worship service, there are people at the right front of the church who stand ready to listen to your concerns and to pray with you. So, whatever your concern, no matter how big or small, feel free to come, to share and to be prayed for.

Prepare yourself now for the highest calling of the people of God which is the worship of God in spirit and in truth. (John 4:24)

Building Attendant for today: Will Coggins

*Cover artwork by Faith Wheeler*

## ***Reflections***

**Vern Poythress:** “**God the Father** empowers all the services. The services take place in the body of **Christ** (most normally). And the **Holy Spirit** apportions gifts to each. All three persons of the Godhead are active. The gifts are called ‘spiritual’ because the Holy Spirit gives and empowers them. They are called ‘gifts’ because God gives them by grace, rather than our having to earn them.”

**John Piper:** “Spiritual gifts are for strengthening others...the (ultimate) aim of all spiritual gifts is ‘that in everything God might be glorified through Jesus Christ.’ This means that God’s aim in giving us gifts, and in giving us the faith to exercise them, is that his glory might be displayed.”

**Juan Sanchez:** “Since gifts are given for the benefit of the entire body, it is foolish to boast about our gifts and to promote ourselves for personal gain. How can you be proud about something that has been given to you by the Spirit for the profitability of others? It makes no sense does it.”

Assisting with the service today:

- Rev. Ben Clarke, Assistant Pastor of Next Gen and Worship
- Rev. Jonathan Williams, Assistant Pastor of Adult Discipleship

## Order of Worship

### Welcome & Announcements

#### *Hearing from the Savior*

#### § Call to Worship

1 Peter 4:10-11

As each has received a gift, use it to serve one another, as good stewards of God's varied grace: whoever speaks, as one who speaks oracles of God; whoever serves, as one who serves by the strength that God supplies—in order that in everything God may be glorified through Jesus Christ. To him belong glory and dominion forever and ever. Amen.

#### *Responding to the Savior*

#### § Prayer of Invocation

#### § Song of Praise

*O For A Thousand Tongues to Sing*

O for a thousand tongues to sing, my great Redeemer's praise,  
The glories of my God and King, the triumphs of His grace.

My gracious Master and my God, assist me to proclaim,  
To spread through all the earth abroad the honors of Thy name.

Jesus, the name that charms our fears, that bids our sorrows cease;  
'Tis music in the sinner's ears, 'tis life and health and peace.

He breaks the pow'r of canceled sin, He sets the pris'ner free;  
His blood can make the foulest clean, His blood availed for me.

Hear Him, ye deaf, His praise, ye dumb: your loosened tongues employ;  
Ye blind, behold, your Savior come, and leap ye lame for joy!

#### Introduction of New Members

Glenn & Jan Hurst, River & Faith La Belle, Joseph & Kathy Melchers, Scott & Candida Moore,  
Brenda Pines, Stan & Raeanne Reaves, and Laura Sampson

#### Song of Praise

*Doxology*

## ***Hearing from the Savior***

### **Scripture Reading**

Romans 1:8-16

First, I thank my God through Jesus Christ for all of you, because your faith is proclaimed in all the world. For God is my witness, whom I serve with my spirit in the gospel of his Son, that without ceasing I mention you always in my prayers, asking that somehow by God's will I may now at last succeed in coming to you. For I long to see you, that I may impart to you some spiritual gift to strengthen you—that is, that we may be mutually encouraged by each other's faith, both yours and mine. I want you to know, brothers, that I have often intended to come to you (but thus far have been prevented), in order that I may reap some harvest among you as well as among the rest of the Gentiles. I am under obligation both to Greeks and to barbarians, both to the wise and to the foolish. So I am eager to preach the gospel to you also who are in Rome. For I am not ashamed of the gospel, for it is the power of God for salvation to everyone who believes, to the Jew first and also to the Greek.

## ***Responding to the Savior***

### **Tithes & Generous Giving**

Three ways to give: the Giving Box, online through the website, or mail to the church at PO Box 80787, Simpsonville, SC 29680

### **Ministry Partner Update**

Steve & Julie Jessen

Mission to North America Disaster Response, North and South Carolina

### **Prayers of the Church**

#### **§ Affirmation of Faith**

The Children's Catechism

Leader: What offices has Christ and what are they?

*Congregation: Christ has three offices. The offices of a prophet, of a priest, and of a king.*

Leader: How is Christ a prophet?

*Congregation: Because he teaches us the will of God.*

Leader: How is Christ a priest?

*Congregation: Because he died for our sins and pleads with God for us.*

Leader: How is Christ a king?

*Congregation: Because he rules over us and defends us.*

Leader: Why do you need Christ as a prophet?

*Congregation: Because I am ignorant.*

Leader: Why do you need Christ as a priest?

*Congregation: Because I am guilty.*

Leader: Why do you need Christ as a king?

*Congregation: Because I am weak and helpless.*

## § Songs of Preparation\*

## *Nailed to the Cross*

\*Parents who desire may bring their 3-5 yr. olds to the children's wing for Children's Church.

When I stand accused by my regrets, and the Devil roars his empty threats.

I will preach the gospel to myself, that I am not a man condemned;

For Jesus Christ is my defense.

*Chorus 1: My sin is nailed to the cross; my soul is healed by the scars.  
The weight of guilt I bear no more; praise the Lord, praise the Lord.*

When my doubt and shame hang over me like the arrows of the enemy.  
I will run again to Calvary: that rugged hill of Hell's defeat;  
My fortress and my victory.

*Chorus 2: My sin is nailed to the cross; my soul is healed by the scars.  
The weight of guilt I bear no more; praise the Lord, praise the Lord.  
My sin is nailed to the cross; my soul is healed by the scars.  
Now I'm alive forevermore; praise the Lord, praise the Lord.*

Bridge (2x): It is finished, sin is vanquished; Hallelujah, praise the Lord.  
All the glory, all the honor to my Savior, Christ the Lord.

When I stand before the throne at last, His blood will plead my innocence.  
I will worship Him with holy hands, and raise the song that never ends  
Of Jesus Christ my righteousness.

*Chorus 2*

Ending:      Oh praise the Lord, praise the Lord

## *Cornerstone*

My hope is built on nothing less  
than Jesus' blood and righteousness.  
I dare not trust the sweetest frame,  
but wholly trust in Jesus' name.

*Chorus: Christ alone, Cornerstone.  
Weak made strong, in the Savior's love.  
Through the storm,  
He is Lord, Lord of All.*

When darkness seems to hide His face,  
I rest on His unchanging grace.  
In every high and stormy gale,  
my anchor holds within the veil.

*Chorus*

When He shall come with trumpet sound,  
Oh, may I then in Him be found.  
Dressed in His righteousness alone,  
faultless to stand before the throne.

*Chorus 2x*

### ***Hearing from the Savior***

#### **Sermon Text**

1 Corinthians 12:1-7

<sup>1</sup>Now concerning spiritual gifts, brothers, I do not want you to be uninformed. <sup>2</sup> You know that when you were pagans you were led astray to mute idols, however you were led. <sup>3</sup> Therefore I want you to understand that no one speaking in the Spirit of God ever says “Jesus is accursed!” and no one can say “Jesus is Lord” except in the Holy Spirit. <sup>4</sup> Now there are varieties of gifts, but the same Spirit; <sup>5</sup> and there are varieties of service, but the same Lord; <sup>6</sup> and there are varieties of activities, but it is the same God who empowers them all in everyone. <sup>7</sup> To each is given the manifestation of the Spirit for the common good.

#### **Preaching of the Word**

Rev. Paul Sanders

##### *“For the Common Good”*

Week after week we proclaim the Bible because we are convinced it is the inspired, infallible, and inerrant Word of God. That means that it comes to us from God, so it is true in everything that it claims. Therefore, you can trust it with all of your heart and it will not let you down.

### ***Responding to the Savior***

#### **§ Song of Response**

*The Church's One Foundation*

The Church's one foundation is Jesus Christ her Lord;  
She is His new creation by water and the Word;  
From heav'n he came and sought her to be His holy bride;  
With His own blood He bought her, and for her life He died.

Elect from ev'ry nation, yet one o'er all the earth,  
Her charter of salvation one Lord, one faith, one birth;  
One holy name she blesses, partakes one holy food,  
And to one hope she presses, with ev'ry grace endued.

Though with a scornful wonder, men see her sore oppressed  
By schisms rent asunder, by heresies distressed  
Yet saints their watch are keeping, their cry goes up "How long?  
And soon the night of weeping, shall be the morn of song.

The church shall never perish! Her dear Lord to defend,  
To guide, sustain, and cherish, is with her to the end;  
Though there be those that hate her, and false sons in her pale,  
against a foe or traitor she ever shall prevail.

Mid toil and tribulation, and tumult of her war;  
She waits the consummation, of peace for evermore.  
Till with the vision glorious, her longing eyes are blest.  
And the great church victorious shall be the church at rest.

Yet she on earth hath union with God the Three in One,  
And mystic sweet communion with those whose rest is won;  
O happy ones and holy! Lord, give us grace that we,  
like them, the meek and lowly, on high may dwell with Thee.

### ***Hearing from the Savior***

#### **§ Benediction**

1 Thessalonians 3:11-12

Now may our God and Father himself, and our Lord Jesus...make you increase and abound in love for one another and for all

*If you have a need or would like to find out more about the Gospel, the Post Worship Team stands ready to meet with you and pray. Simply make your way to the front right-hand side of the sanctuary after the Benediction, and a team member will be there to meet with you.*

*Space for Notes:*

## Questions for Families & Community Groups

1. Especially for the children (and us all):
  - a. How has someone in this church helped your faith in Jesus to grow?
  - b. How have you helped someone else's faith in Jesus to grow?
  - c. How might we use our gift(s) for our own gain instead of for others?
2. What was your top takeaway from the sermon today?
3. Did you gain any insight or clarity into what a spiritual gift is and the purposes from the following definition? "A divine, distinct, spiritual, gracious manifestation of and empowerment given to each believer by the Holy Spirit to accomplish God's purposes for the body of Christ."
4. What is the difference between a spiritual gift and a natural talent or ability?
5. The Greek word for the 'gifts' in spiritual gifts is *charismata*, which is a derivative of the word *charis*, usually translated as grace. What is the significance of this for our understanding of spiritual gifts?
6. What are ways you can serve people in your church that might help you discern your gift?
7. The specific spiritual gifts listed in Biblical texts are given to be examples, not exhaustive? Agree or disagree? Why or why not?
8. Pray as a group and ask the Lord to make clear what gift you all have and how it might serve for His glory and the edification of His church.

### Why Do We Do That?

### Church Membership

Question: Where do you find church membership in the Bible?

Answer: While the words "church membership" is not in the Bible, the practice of "church membership" is blatantly clear.

Hebrews 13:17 says, "Obey your leaders and submit to them, for they are keeping watch over your

souls, as those who will have to give an account. Let them do this with joy and not with groaning, for that would be of no advantage to you."

Two questions arise from Hebrews 13:17. If there is no biblical requirement to belong a local church, then to which leaders should an individual Christian obey and submit? The Scriptures clearly command Christians to submit to and honor an elder body (Heb. 13:17, 1 Tim. 5:17). If there is no understanding of local church membership, then to whom are we to submit and obey? Is it anyone with the title "elder" from any church? Of course not! There must be a clearly DEFINED leadership to whom we are accountable!

The second question is this: For whom are the leaders of the church (i.e. Elders) responsible to give an account? The Scriptures clearly command an elder body to care for specific people (See 1 Pet. 5:1-5; also, Acts 20:29-30). Are the Elders at CCC to be held accountable for all the Christians in Simpsonville, SC? Of course not! There must be a clearly DEFINED membership that we are responsible to shepherd and lead. Church shepherding and discipline will not work if local church membership doesn't exist.

Other evidences for membership include the following:

- Acts 2:37-47 - numerical record of those who have professed Christ and been filled with the Holy Spirit (v. 41) and an acknowledgement that the church was tracking the growth (v. 47)
- Acts 6:1-6 - we see elections take place in order to address a specific problem and accusation.
- Romans 16:1-16 – Example of an awareness of who is a church member.
- Timothy 5:3-16 - In this text we see criteria for who would or would not qualify for Ephesus' widow care program. The local church in Ephesus is organized, and they are working out a plan. There is a clear distinction of what widows belong to the church.

Obedience to commands in 1 Cor. 12 and Romans 12 imply membership being necessary!

"When church is just a place you attend without ever joining, like an ecclesiological buffet, you just might consider whether you're always leaving whenever your heart begins to be exposed by the Spirit, and the real work is beginning to happen. When you begin to look at these texts it becomes clear that God's plan for his church is that we would belong to a local covenant community of faith. This is for our own protection and maturation, and for the good of others."

~Matt Chandler

Local church membership is a question of Biblical obedience, not personal preference. Is it time you considered church membership? If you have an interest in pursuing membership at CCC, please see one of our elders to discuss this further.

*Mark your calendars:*

## ***January***

- **11:** Fellowship Dinner, 5pm
- **24:** CPR & AED Training, 8:30am
- **31:** CPR & AED Training, 8:30am

*More information can be found in the Update, on the app, and/or website.*

- \* *The first Sunday of each month we take a collection of personal care items for the Center for Community Services. Items can be placed in the wagon located next to the Information Desk in the foyer.*
- \* *Members can pick up a monthly giving report summary in the Deacons' office.*

### ***Church office: 864.967.2815***

#### **Staff**

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